

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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SAH FRANCOIS MAURIAC, FIGARO COLUMNIST, PUBLICLY RESIGNED YESTERDAY AS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE-MAGHREB COMMITTEE. IN SIGNED ARTICLE IN FIGARO LITTERAIRE. REASON INDICATED IS THAT CERTAIN H GAULLISTS ARE NOT ABOVE DISLOYAL ATTITUDE TOWARD DE GAULLE AF AND HIS REGIME AS CONCERNS BEN BARKA AFFAIR. AT END HE ANNOT IO RESIST TEMPTATION OF FACILE INSINUATION THAT CIA SOMEHOW INVOLVED. CLOSING PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW:

P THESE BULLETS SHOT FROM OUR OWN RANKS OBLIGE ME TO RESIGN USIA AS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE-MAGHREB COMMITTEE, WHICH BEN BARKA NSC AFFAIR HAS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE. AS MATTER OF FACT, I WAS INR UNWILLINGLY BROUGHT BACK TO LIKE MYSELF, FORCED TO SIGN, CIA THESE LAST FEW DAYS, COMMUNIQUES WHICH I HAD NOT DRAFTED. IT IS TRUE THAT I APPROVED THEIR CONTENTS, IN SPIRIT AND IN DOD LETTER -- BUT NOT ALL THE INTENTIONS BEHIND THEM. I D O NOT WANT PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO BELIEVE THAT I AGREE WITH THOSE GAULLISTS WHO, IN ORDER TO FIRE AT THE MINISTERS OF DE GAULLE, RSR HAVE WAITED FOR MOMENT OF AMBUSH.

"YES, AMBUSH. WHO COULD DOUBT IT? EITHER SHORTLY BEFORE OR SHORTLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION /SIC/ OF BEN BARKA. (I CANNOT FIND DATE OF VISIT IN QUESTION), A MOROCCAN FRIEND WHO KNOWS WHAT LIES UNDER THE CARDS TALKED TO ME ABOUT CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OF GENERAL OUFKIR AND AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES. HOW MUCH TRUTH THERE IS IN THIS I DO NOT KNOW. THE FACT REMAINS THAT FOR ONCE THESE /AMERICAN/ SERVICES HAVE NOW CARRIED OUT A DOUBLE STROKE AGAINST THIRD WORLD IN GETTING RID OF BEN BARKA, AND AGAINST DE GAULLE. IF THE AMERICAN SERVICES ARE INNOCENT IN THIS AFFAIR, THEN IT IS THE DEVIL HIMSELF WHO HAS BEEN PLAYING ROLE IN THEIR STEAD".

THIS PASSAGE CITED IN TODAY'S FIGARO, JUST ABOVE BOX QUOTING DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 26 DENIAL OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN BEN BARKA AFFAIR. CITED ALSO THIS MORNING IN EUROPE ONE RADIO BROADCAST.

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28 JAN 1966

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-2- 4409, JAN 27, FROM PARIS

MY INCLINATION AT THE MOMENT IS NOT TO PROTEST THIS INSIDIOUS
INSINUATION. YESTERDAY'S NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR CARRIED AN ACCOUNT
OF A MEETING OF LEFTWING GAULLISTS IN MAURIAC'S APARTMENT LAST
FRIDAY WITH PICTURE OF MINISTER INTERIOR FREY ARRIVING AT
MAURIAC'S ADDRESS. FREY IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "IT IS INDEED
NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT AMERICAN AGENTS OF THE CIA MAY HAVE HAD
SOME INFLUENCE IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE KIDNAPPING".
MAURIAC'S CONTRIBUTION PROBABLY STEMS, THEREFORE, FROM THIS
MEETING. MAURIAC IS WIDELY KNOWN AS SORE-HEAD AND CONSEQUENTLY
NOT TAKEN FULLY SERIOUSLY. I BELIEVE OUR REPEATED DENIAL
AT THIS POINT WOULD SERVE TO KEEP ALIVE A STORY THAT WILL

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OTHERWISE DIE ON ITS OWN. CURRENT TENDENCY IN FRANCE, AS
INITIATED READERS RECOGNIZE, IS TO BLAME ALL THINGS ADVERSE
ON CIA.

HOWEVER, WE SHALL WATCH THIS PARTICULAR ACCUSATION AND IF
IT PERSISTS OR DEVELOPS FURTHER WE SHALL THEN TAKE SUCH STEPS
AS SEEM INDICATED TO CONTAIN RUMORS. BOHLEN
BT

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